

WV DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL  
VIRTUAL QUARTERLY MEETING  
January 26, 2021

MINUTES

Members present: Kenneth Accord, Doug Auten, Brandy Beery, Janie Cole, Lesley Cottrell, Delmar Davis, Julie Dial, Marc Ellison, Dawn Embrey-King, Tonya Eve, Lynsay Frye, JaQue Galloway, Susan Given, Richard Hammons, Kim Hawkins, Randy Hill, Jacqueline Proctor, Pam Roush, Ashley Stewart, Rebecca Stone, Jessica Sykes, and Sheila Zickefoose.

Members absent: Rhonda Blosser, Janice Bostic, Steve Brady, James Gallaher, Sherill Hoffman, Susan Loudermilk, Wanda Proffitt, and Matthew Wink.

Staff present: Christy Black, Linda Higgs, and Steve Wiseman.

Guests: Mitch Balaban, Jenny Lancaster, Jeff McCroskey, and Betsy Peterson – Vocational Services, Inc., Richard Ernest – Bureau for Medical Services, Emily Hopta – DHHR, and Pam Ingram – Bureau for Behavioral Health.

**Call to Order, Welcome:** Brandy called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

**Introductions and Announcements:** Brandy invited each person to introduce themselves and then asked for any announcements. Rebecca announced the deadline is January 31<sup>st</sup> to apply for the Luke Stone Illumination Fund. An essay is required; the winner has \$1,000 added to a WV ABLE account. Information can be found at the website: <https://lsilluminationfund.com>.

**Mission Statement Reminder:** Brandy asked Linda to read the Council's Mission Statement.

**Public Comments:** None

**Approval of October 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes:** Lynsay moved and JaQue seconded the motion to approve the Minutes after Members had time to review them. **Motion carried.**

## **New Business**

**Election of Nominating Committee:** Three people volunteered to have their names placed on a ballot for election: Jessica Sykes – parent Member, Pam Roush – state agency Member, and Marc Ellison – at-large Member. Instead of voting by ballot, Brandy asked for a motion to approve all those who volunteered. **Doug moved** and Richard **seconded the motion to approve Jessica, Pam, and Marc as the Nominating Committee. Motion carried.** Jessica, Pam, and Marc abstained from voting.

## **Presentations**

**Grantee update – Vocational Services, Inc., Jeff McCroskey, Director:** Jeff McCroskey, Jenny Lancaster, Betsy Peterson and Mitch Balaban provided Members an update on the Student Success Project, a Council grant that is in its second year. Jeff reminded Members the idea for the project came about because the prevailing attitude of society is to hold lower expectations for children with disabilities and the need to counter that by sharing success stories of people doing well in school, work, and the community.

The original plan was to have a two-tier parent system – the first being a group of parents willing to answer questions from new parents and the second, a group of parents willing to provide trainings. Because it seemed likely that volunteer parents could be overwhelmed with questions from other parents, a Facebook page was developed instead where parents can ask questions and receive answers. The project will also utilize already existing groups to provide training for other parents.

The project is currently working with some hospital administrators and preparing packets to be shared with medical professionals to assist in raising their expectations of children with disabilities for whom they provide care.

Jenny shared the new Facebook page, *WV Student Success*, and Betsy spoke about it. It includes a public page and a private section for parent dialog. Three questions are required to be answered prior to being accepted as a member in the private section. So far, three parents have interacted in the dialog section since the beginning of the year.

Jenny shared two of the completed videos next. Videos of two other individuals have been completed, and the intent is to have four or five more videos by June.

Jeff spoke about the video of David Bowles who went through the Kanawha County School Work Exploration Program and then got a job at the South Charleston Community Center using the Supported Employment and Extended Supported Employment Services offered through the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS). He had been successfully employed at the Community Center for 25 years at the time the video was made.

Mitch spoke about the video of Tanner Hannigan. He worked with Tanner, who also went through the Work Exploration Program and then the STEP project, which was a systems change project funded by the DD Council and adopted by DRS. He works at Smith's Grocery in Elkview. Tanner's mother says "You can't put a price on the benefits of working."

Council Members who have a family member or know other people with developmental disabilities who might be included in this project should contact Jeff or Council staff to suggest them.

The webpage for the project is <https://wvstudentsuccess.org>.

**New Dental Coverage for Medicaid Beneficiaries – Richard Ernest, Jr., Bureau for Medical Services:** Richard provided details about the dental coverage approved during the 2020 legislative session through SB 648. People who have full Medicaid coverage can now receive preventive dental care (such as cleanings) rather than just emergency services (such as extractions). It has been shown that providing preventive services can save money in the long run. He has been working with Dr. Jason Roush at Oral Health to get billing codes set up and the program became active January 1<sup>st</sup>.

There is a \$1,000 annual limit covered by Medicaid for preventive services. Emergency services do not count towards the annual limit. Prior authorizations are being required in order to check to see how much money is left for a Member to use, since they will be responsible for paying anything above the \$1,000 limit. This allows the patient and the dentist to plan services that might be more expensive.

Partial plates and dentures are covered; veneers or other cosmetic procedures are not.

BMS is exploring Ambulatory Surgical Centers (out-patient settings) as an option for those adults with developmental disabilities who cannot receive dental care in the dental office due to the need to be under anesthesia rather than using hospital operating rooms.

It was stated that Family Support program funds (through the Bureau for Behavioral Health) is a possible source to cover costs that exceed the \$1000 Medicaid limit.

**Update on State Plan Survey Findings – Lesley Cottrell, Director, UCED:** Lesley compiled data and presented the findings from the Council’s survey which has been active on Facebook. To date, approximately 680 responses have been received. Several topics of interest have emerged, including the relative availability of services in rural versus urban areas, which were unexpected. The need for more Respite Care services was cited many times in the survey responses. Members received a copy of the presentation in the mailing.

**Members Comments/Concerns:** None

**Completion of Meeting Feedback:** Members completed a poll provided on the Zoom platform.

**Adjournment:** Jessica moved and Jacqueline seconded the motion to adjourn.